

## ARKANSAS 1115 DEMONSTRATION

### FACT SHEET

<b>Name of Section 1115 Demonstration:</b>	IndependentChoices
<b>Original Approval Date:</b>	October 9, 1998
<b>Scheduled Expiration Date:</b>	November 30, 2006
<b>Date Demonstration Implemented:</b>	December 1, 1998
<b>Date Amendment Submitted:</b>	May 16, 2002
<b>Date Amendment Approved:</b>	October 2, 2002

### SUMMARY

Arkansas is one of three States participating in the Cash and Counseling Demonstration Project sponsored jointly by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Department of Health and Human Services. On October 9, 1998, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved 5 year Section 1115 "Cash and Counseling" demonstration projects for Arkansas, New Jersey, and Florida. Arkansas implemented this demonstration program known as "IndependentChoices" on December 1, 1998. The program is Statewide and the eligible participants include those who are currently receiving Medicaid, are 18 years of age or older, require assistance with their activities of daily living, and are interested and willing to participate. The Counseling/Fiscal Agency provides the counseling and fiscal services to the consumer. Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., used a control group versus treatment group experimental design to evaluate the project. Mathematica's goal was to evaluate participant satisfaction and safety, and health outcomes associated with the intervention. As preliminary reports have suggested, those receiving the cash allowance have shown increased quality of life and positive health and safety outcomes.

After satisfying the experimental requirement of the demonstration, the State requested to remove the experimental design so that all participants in the demonstration receive the cash allowance. Eliminating the experimental design also required changing the methodology for ensuring budget neutrality. The new budget neutrality agreement is based on a trended approach. The State is also asking for a 3-year extension.

This demonstration supports President Bush's *New Freedom Initiative* as it allows participants to live in their family residence or their own home and have control over the planning and purchase of long-term supports and services by way of a cash allowance.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the IndependentChoices demonstration program, participants must:

- Be Medicaid eligibles 18 years or older;
- Require assistance with their activities of daily living;
- Be currently enrolled in the demonstration; and,
- Be willing to receive cash allowance in lieu of personal care services via an agency.

## **BENEFIT PACKAGE**

Provide participants with control over the planning and purchase of long-term supports and services by way of a cash allowance.

## **ENROLLMENT PROCESS**

All current demonstration participants (approximately 1600) would be offered placement in the demonstration amendment program to receive the cash allowance.

## **DELIVERY SYSTEM**

Participants would be provided with a counseling/fiscal agent to assist with managing the cash allowance.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Arkansas will use the following quality assurance strategies:

- Further utilize surveys to evaluate participant satisfaction.
- Assure safeguards are in place for participant protections.
- Continue use of mechanisms to ensure the needs of vulnerable populations are met.

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